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EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

29 Jan. 1974

ROMANIA

Prague Pushes Cooperation

Prague's commentary on the recent conference of party secretaries in Moscow will undoubtedly grate on Romanian ears. On 25 January, the Czechoslovak party daily wrote that "although Communist parties work in specific national conditions, the talks and principles they try to implement are identical. It would be very harmful," Rude Pravo continued, "if they closed themselves into the narrow national framework, magnified specific (national) conditions and stood them against the tasks of the socialist community and the international movement as a whole." The commentary ends with an article of faith--the need to carry out the conclusions adopted at last summer's Crimean summit "which are directed towards closer cooperation of the Communist parties."

Although the recent meeting dealt with strengthening the organization of the party, which Bucharest could easily support, talk like the Czech commentary is clearly pointed at the nationalistic-minded Romanians.

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Fog Delays Husayn Visit

Jordanian King Husayn spent Monday night in Istanbul after his plane was unable to land at Bucharest's fog-shrouded Otopeni airport. President Ceausescu, other top Romanian leaders, and representatives of all the Arab states had turned out to greet the king at the beginning of a planned three-day official visit. After overnighting in Turkey, the king's party finally made it to Bucharest on Tuesday.

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WARSAW PACT-ROMANIA

The Bulgarian news agency announced yesterday that the Warsaw Pact defense ministers committee will meet in Bucharest in early February. The last such meeting was held in Warsaw in February 1973 and, on the basis of alphabetic rotation it is Romania's turn to play host. Soviet Marshal I. I. Yakubovosky, commander-in-chief of the Pact's joint forces, was in Bucharest last week to make arrangements for the conference.

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BULGARIA-EAST GERMANY

Like Minds in Pankow

Predictably, Bulgarian party boss Zhivkov's visit to East Germany last week produced adulation of Moscow and castigation of Peking, which was said to have broken completely with Marxism-Leninism. Economic cooperation, especially in the context of CEMA integration, was the chief topic of discussion.

HUNGARY

Economic Ties with West Germany

Less than two months after their establishment of full diplomatic relations, Bonn and Budapest are already busy plotting long-range economic and commercial relations. Hungarian foreign trade minister Biro's current six-day visit to the FRG will focus on the prospects for a long-term economic agreement and further enterprise-level collaboration. Biro is scheduled to meet with Brandt before he leaves on February 2.

Economic ties between the two countries never suffered much in the absence of diplomatic relations; German statistics claim that bilateral trade has quadrupled in the last 10 years. West German economic dealings with Hungary have, however, been a matter of sensitivity to the Hungarians, who may have been getting some heat from the Soviets and East Germans. A Hungarian official once implied that trade with the FRG could not exceed a certain level because of "political considerations."

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Prague Approves WE Communist Meeting

Reporting on the conclusion of the three-day conference of West European Communist parties, Prague radio says that "no one has any doubts that the European Communist movement has been given an important impetus." While there was much speculation beforehand that the meeting might "be a further display of the disunity of the Communist movement," this turned out to be

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wishful thinking. The final document is termed an important basis for the next world Communist conference.

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YUGOSLAVIA

Philosophy Profs Still in Place

The fate of the eight dissident lecturers of the Philosophical Faculty at Belgrade University remains unresolved. New statutes being considered by the faculty council charged with the case must be adopted prior to any decision on the suitability of the lecturers to continue in their positions. The council, however, has postponed adoption of the statutes for a week, and a final decision will be reached only after "extensive and documented discussion." It now appears that the faculty council may not be willing or able to purge the eight before students return from their semester break in mid-February.

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